

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 27 as follows:

27. [Currently Amended] A seal for use in a solid oxide fuel cell comprising a matrix of ceramic fibres and a plurality of solid particles impregnated within the matrix and interspersed between the ceramic fibres, wherein the fibres and solid particles are unsintered and wherein the fibres and particles combine to form a flexible and compressible seal which is substantially but not hermetically gas-tight, and wherein the seal does not comprise a catalytic element.